

of the region—a “Yooper” as we in the U.P. of Michigan style ourselves. As a typical Yooper, he does what needs to be done without looking for any award, and he accomplishes his tasks without fanfare. He will fight for what he believes in, but he will accept his victories with humility.

In therefore gives me special pleasure to call your attention and that of our colleagues to the great honor from Northern Michigan University that has been bestowed on my friend, Paul Lehto.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. KANA BARKER-MABON

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and extend well-deserved recognition to Mrs. Kana Barker-Mabon who was awarded the prestigious Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award for her dedication, compassion and diligence as an educator in the Memphis City Schools.

Being only one of two educators ever awarded this distinguished award in Tennessee, Mrs. Barker-Mabon has always had a passion for working with children. While pursuing her bachelors in political science at Rhodes College, she also took education classes under Dr. Watson, the chair of the Education Department at Rhodes College and current Superintendent of Memphis City Public Schools.

During her student teaching, Mrs. Barker-Mabon was determined to teach where she believed the children needed her the most, so she requested placement at Cypress Middle, one of the lowest performing schools in the state. She continues to teach there today. Mrs. Barker-Mabon is a product of Memphis City Schools and has been a success story since she was placed at Cypress. The results of her hard work are seen through the lives of the children she touches.

Mrs. Barker-Mabon earned her M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from Freed-Hardeman University and is currently working on her Ph.D. at the University of Mississippi. She continues to embrace her students in their academic endeavors and strives to meet their immediate needs by offering students study sessions in addition to providing them with food on the weekends.

In her teaching career, Mrs. Barker-Mabon was promoted from classroom teacher to school facilitator after only five years at Cypress, and she teaches other educators how to be more effective. Her steadfastness and undying devotion manifests itself in the attitudes of her students and their test scores. She is held in very high esteem by her students, faculty and administration.

This recent award only further highlights a career committed to educating and caring for the well-being of our children. Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and my colleagues will join me in honoring Mrs. Kana Barker-Mabon, a model educator whose kindness and dedication continues to change the lives of countless youth in Memphis, Tennessee.

SHAME ON THE HOUSE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed, but not surprised, by what took place in the House of Representatives last week. By the narrowest of margins, the tired old agenda of tax cuts for the rich and giveaways to the corporate interests and big business scored another victory in the Republican-controlled House.

Bob Herbert described it best when he wrote in *The New York Times*, on Monday, October 29, 2001: “The Republicans who control the House thumbed their noses at the ordinary Americans who will absorb the brunt of the economic downturn and shamelessly gift-wrapped yet another bundle of tax cuts for the very well-to-do.”

He added: “With Americans fighting and dying both at home and abroad, we are understandably in a season of patriotism. That patriotism should not be soiled by wartime profiteering.”

The Republican so-called economic stimulus package is described by Mr. Herbert as having “. . . very little to do with economic recovery. It’s about using the shield of war and economic hard times as a cover for the perpetual task of funneling government largesse to the very rich.”

It should come as no surprise that there are some in Congress who will push their one-track agenda no matter what. If our nation is experiencing an economic downturn, then the answer is tax cuts for the top. If our nation is recovering from a terrorist attack, then the solution is more Treasury money to the big corporations. And if our Armed Forces are engaged in battle half way across the world, then a tax cut for the wealthy and well connected is the patriotic thing to do.

Since 9/11, the American people are holding their government to a higher standard, and are placing extraordinary trust in their elected officials. Shame on those public servants who abuse that trust.

I hope my colleagues will carefully read Mr. Herbert’s op-ed and consider his arguments.

[From the *New York Times*, Oct. 29, 2001]

SHAME IN THE HOUSE

(By Bob Herbert)

“Ask not what your country can do for you. . . .”

It has been 40 years since John F. Kennedy, standing hatless and coatless in the bitter cold of a snow-covered capital, delivered the lines that turned out to be the most stirring and most famous of his presidency.

If you listened closely last week, you could hear an echo of that moment on the Senate floor. On Wednesday morning, in an address to his colleagues, Senator Edward M. Kennedy said: “Now we have seen, perhaps more clearly than ever before in our lives, how we are all in this together—how if even one of us is hurting, all of us hurt. Our first thoughts on September 11 were about others, not ourselves.”

Senator Kennedy, now 69 years old, spoke movingly of the acts of extraordinary bravery and selflessness exhibited by Americans

both at home and abroad in this sudden war against terrorism. And he called on the nation as a whole to adopt that spirit of selflessness as the new standard “by which we measure everything we do.”

“The standard is clear,” he said. “To seek what is right for our country, and not just for ourselves.” He said it is essential that Americans not “strive for private advantage in a time of national need.”

Not everyone is listening.

Senator Kennedy’s speech was, specifically, a call for fairness and common decency as Congress moves ahead with its effort to help revive an economy that was faltering before Sept. 11, and has since been thrown into very serious trouble by terrorism and war.

But last week, as the House narrowly passed its version of an economic stimulus package, the dominant motive at work appeared once again to be greed. The Republicans who control the House thumbed their noses at the ordinary Americans who will absorb the brunt of the economic downturn and shamelessly gift-wrapped yet another bundle of tax cuts for the very well-to-do.

In Senator Kennedy’s words, the House proposal, which contains more than \$100 billion in tax cuts for corporations and individuals, “merely repackages” old, partisan, unfair, permanent tax breaks—which were rejected by Congress last spring—under the new label of economic stimulus. The American people deserve better.”

With Americans fighting and dying both at home and abroad, we are understandably in a season of patriotism. That patriotism should not be soiled by wartime profiteering.

The House package is a breathtaking example of cynicism and chutzpah. The bill’s primary author, Representative Bill Thomas, a Republican from California, piously proclaimed that there is an urgent need to help businesses because they are the nation’s employers. “They’re the hardware store,” he said, “the diner down the street, the gas station on the corner.”

And then you look closely at the legislation and find that it overwhelmingly favors the giant corporations, with tax breaks approaching \$1.4 billion for I.B.M., more than \$800 million for General Motors and \$670 million for General Electric.

It’s a stimulus package in name only because the Americans who are the most strapped—the consumers who would take any relief that they received and immediately pump it right back into the economy—get the least. The package has very little to do with economic recovery. It’s about using the shield of war and economic hard times as a cover for the perpetual task of funneling government largesse to the very rich.

Nearly \$2 trillion in tax cuts were passed just a few months ago, but that was not enough. True greed knows no bounds.

The political analyst Kevin Phillips, in a commentary on National Public Radio, said: “Neither house of Congress has ever passed this kind of major tax bill in wartime, and no one in the House assumes that the Senate will accept it in whole. But the more extreme the House bill, the further that will drag the eventual compromise in that same inexcusable direction. The only real solution is a public outcry, tens of millions of pointing fingers and voices saying, ‘Shame.’”

Forty years after the inauguration of President Kennedy, the most favored and least needy among us are proving themselves to be masterful at finding what their country can do for them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407.

Had I been present, I would have voted 400—no; 401—no; 402—yes; 403—yes; 404—no; 405—yes; 406—yes; 407—yes.

SIKHS ASKED TO REMOVE TURBANS AT AIRPORT, TURBAN IS RELIGIOUS SYMBOL AND MUST NOT BE REMOVED

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, there have been more incidents in which Sikh men were asked to remove their turbans at an airport. Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has brought these to my attention.

Satpal Singh Kohli was about to board a Southwest Airlines flight from Albuquerque to Los Angeles when members of the ground crew demanded that he remove his turban. He told the ground crew that his Sikh religion required him to wear the turban and he could not remove it. The ground crew insisted that he remove his turban. He needed to get to Los Angeles to be with his ailing father. When the agents would not budge, Mr. Kohli demanded to see their supervisor. He was told that if he had a complaint, he should contact customer service.

The agents not only searched his turban in full view of other passengers, they searched his unshorn hair—required by his religion—as well. Mr. Kohli said that “In my whole life I have never been humiliated like this.” The agents had only told him that they wanted to search his bag, not his turban or hair. Yet they never checked his bag.

Last Saturday, Tejinder Singh Kahlon, a sitting judge in New York, was asked to remove his turban at a New York airport. He refused. He was not allowed to board his plane. He called the media to report his harassment by the airport security personnel.

The turban is a symbol of the Sikh religion, to which Mr. Kohli and Judge Kahlon belong. It is religiously mandated. They are required to carry five symbols. Unshorn hair covered by a turban is one of these. More than 99 percent of the people in this country who wear turbans are Sikhs. Turbans should not be removed and searched.

Linda Rutherford, a spokeswoman for Southwest Airlines, admitted that the incident had to do with “passenger profiling” and claimed that the rules had to do either with what a passenger wears or what he looks like, but she blamed the Federal Aviation Administration for these new rules. If that is true, the FAA should be ashamed of themselves. They have institutionalized racial profiling as a part of their antiterrorism policy. If it is the airline’s own policy, then decent Americans should flood Southwest Airlines’ headquarters with protests.

We must not allow racial, religious, or ethnic profiling. The airport ground crews should be prohibited from stopping Sikh passengers and searching their religiously-mandated turbans. This kind of discrimination is never acceptable. I ask Attorney General Ashcroft and Secretary of Transportation Mineta to look into this matter and stop this harassment of Sikh Americans immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place an India-West article on the Kohli incident into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From India-West, Oct. 26, 2001]

SIKH ASKED TO HAND OVER TURBAN BEFORE BOARDING PLANE

(By Viji Sundaram)

Satpal Singh Kohli was about to board a Southwest Airlines flight from Albuquerque, N.M., to Los Angeles Oct. 22, when ground crew at the security gate demanded that he hand over his turban to them before he enplaned. When Kohli protested, telling them that as a Sikh his religion forbade him from baring his head in public, the agents insisted that he do as he was told. Kohli said that they told him that he would have to fly minus his turban, which would be returned to him at the Los Angeles airport. Kohli said he told them that he had flown Southwest from Los Angeles to Albuquerque just two days earlier and “my turban wasn’t an issue then.” He also told them that he had to make that flight because his elderly father, who was home alone in Los Angeles, needed to be given medication and may even need to be hospitalized.

When Kohli realized he was getting nowhere with the agents, he asked to see their supervisor. He said he was told that if he had a complaint, he should call customer service. Kohli said in a e-mail he sent to India-West. The agents told him that if he wanted to make that flight, he would have to submit to a complete turban and hair search.

Because of his father’s medical condition, Kohli said he reluctantly agreed, but requested that it be done in a private area, out of view of the other passengers. Kohli said the agents told him there was no private area and that the search would be done at the security area behind the counter.

He said an agent not only searched his turban thoroughly in full view of the other passengers and ground staff, she also searched his hair, before allowing him to board the plane.

“My sentiments were hurt,” Kohli said. “In my whole life I have never been humiliated like this.”

Kohli said that in pulling him over for a check, the agent had told him he needed to have his bag searched, not his turban or his hair. Yet, after searching his turban and hair, they waved him through, without checking his carry-on bag, according to Kohli, who works as a travel agent.

When he arrived in Los Angeles, Kohli said he went to Southwest’s customer service center and told the two men there—the customer service supervisor and station manager—about what he had been put through. Both men, as well as the captain of the plane who happened to stop by, agreed that turban searches were not a part of the new security requirements, Kohli said. He said they apologized for what had happened.

Called for a comment, Linda Rutherford, a Southwest Airlines spokeswoman in its corporate headquarters in Dallas, Texas, told India-West that following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America, there has been some new Federal Aviation Administration-mandated procedures “regarding passenger profiling.” She said she was not aware of the Kohli incident, but noted that “if a pas-

senger had been flagged as a selectee, there would have been additional security checks.” She said she was not sure if those additional checks are triggered by what a passenger wears or what he or she looks like.

“Certainly, it could be a bit awkward for passengers to have their personal belongings searched in front of other passengers,” Rutherford acknowledged, adding: “It is certainly not our intent to embarrass our passengers.” Manjit Singh, executive director of the Maryland-based Sikh Media Watch and Resource Task Force, told India-West that since the Sept. 11 attacks, his organization has received at least a dozen complaints similar to Kohli’s. “We are very disturbed by what’s happening,” Singh said.

He said his group plans to meet with Norm Mineta, Secretary of Transportation, as well as with FAA officials to make them aware of what was happening. “A Sikh should never be forced to remove his turban,” Singh said. “It’s a religiously mandated headdress.”

He said turban searches should only be done if the metal detector beeps. Security agents, he said, should first do an electronic check, then pat down the turban if they suspect something, and only as a last resort should they ask the passenger to remove his turban.

Since Sept. 11, Sikhs nationwide have become targets of hate crimes in the U.S., as people misidentify them as Taliban supporters because of their beards and turbans. A number of them have in recent weeks reportedly set aside their turbans and concealed their tresses under baseball caps.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VIRGINIA MCNEIL

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend well-deserved recognition to Mrs. Virginia McNeil of Memphis as she is named Elementary School Principal for the year 2001 by the Tennessee Principals’ Study Council.

A hands-on educator with varied experiences and an abiding devotion to her profession, Mrs. Virginia McNeil has rendered distinguished service as an elementary school teacher, assistant principal and as an instructional supervisor for the System-Wide Achievement Team of Memphis City Schools; however, the defining position of Mrs. McNeil’s career has been her productive tenure as the principal of Alton Elementary school, a position she has held since August 1988.

With a powerful determination and an expressed concern for each student, Principal McNeil has worked tirelessly to implement school reform, inspire students to achieve, encourage professional development for teachers and involve parents and community leaders in the everyday operation of this school. In the midst of her work, she also has been the impetus behind the creation of the school’s strong sense of “internal community.” The collective attitude of the faculty and staff has been one which has encouraged support and collaboration. This has been extremely important given the fact that Mrs. McNeil has shepherded a staff that has consistently contained